

# Colorado River Drought Contingency Planning and Demand Management Feasibility

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CWCB May Meeting – Gunnison, CO



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

# Overview

- Ongoing outreach efforts
- DCP status
- 2019 Work Plan update
- Looking forward

# DCP and Demand Management Outreach

## **since March Board meeting**

- Water Bank Work Group – Fruita
- Tribal Interests Workgroup – Ignacio
- Southwestern Water Conservation District – Durango
- Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable – Craig
- Metro Basin Roundtable – Denver
- Colorado River Water Conservation District – Glenwood Springs
- American Water Resources Association Colorado Section – Golden
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum – Pueblo
- South Platte Basin Roundtable - Longmont

# Moving Forward with DCP

## **CLOSE.... But not done**

- Congressional hearings in March.
- Legislation passed in House and Senate – to President's desk.
- Signed by President on April 16.
- Moving forward:
  - Finalization of ICS exhibits – approved by UCRC.
  - IID ongoing issues.
  - Final signatures for DCP documentation, including Secretary of the Interior – planned for May 20.
  - Trigger Mexico participation in DCP through water scarcity plan of Minute 323.
  - Apply all elements of DCPs to operational determinations for water year 2020 in August.

## CWCB Policy Statement

“Develop the state’s position and approach on whether and how to develop any Upper Basin Demand Management Program that could potentially be implemented within Colorado consistent with state law to avoid or mitigate the risk of involuntary compact curtailment and to enhance certainty and security in the Colorado River water supply.”

INVESTIGATING

VOLUNTARY, TEMPORARY, AND  
COMPENSATED

Reducing Use Through Demand  
Management



# 2019 Work Plan

- Purpose
- Tasks
  - Initial Issue Identification
  - Establish Workgroups
  - Conduct Workshops
  - Evaluate and Report
  - Project Management
- Timelines
- Deliverables
- Estimated Resources/Costs

## Tasks: Establish Workgroups

- **To help identify and evaluate priority issues within Colorado regarding demand management feasibility.**
- Guided by criteria in Support and Policy Statement.
- First job: formulate meaningful scopes of work, budgets, and timeline for initial work to be completed in CY 2019.
- **Keeping in mind:** the need for an effective and efficient process.



## Tasks: Establish Workgroups

- Proposed Workgroups:
  - **Law and Policy**
  - **Monitoring and Verification**
  - **Water Rights Administration and Accounting**
  - **Environmental Considerations**
  - **Economic Considerations**
  - **Funding**
  - **Education and Outreach**
  - **Agricultural Impacts**
  - **Tribal Interests**

# Who's on the Workgroups?

- Subject matter experts in the identified area of investigation.
- Not based on affiliation, employment, membership of an organization. Selected in individual capacity and not as a representative.
- Demonstrated willingness to apply their skills to help assess statewide demand management considerations within Colorado.
- Generally, not already an active voice or in a leadership role in other forums and groups discussing demand management considerations.

# Workgroup Invitations

- Important considerations:
  - Workgroup members and any affiliated organization will not be allowed to submit a bid to serve as a consultant for a standing work group.
  - Workgroup members will be expected to sign a confidentiality agreement to abstain from discussing outside of the work group forums any information that is deemed confidential or privileged per the terms of the agreement.

# Workgroup Invitations

- Workgroups may participate in deliberative and privileged discussions regarding information which may be subject to confidentiality until they are made available to the public as part of the outreach or decision-making efforts at appropriate times.
- **Recommendations to the CWCB and relevant work product of the workgroups will be made public and disclosed at appropriate times throughout the process.**

# Workgroup Process

- The “rubber meets the road” in these discussions, as it does in other demand management forums.
- We are giving the workgroups breathing room to have frank and candid conversations and to help identify solutions.
- Identified workgroup members will begin receiving calls and emails next week.
  - Once the workgroup members have agreed to serve, a roster will be posted of the full membership to the CWCB website.

# WORKGROUPS ARE BUT A PIECE OF THE DEMAND MANAGEMENT PIE

Throughout the process, the CWCB will continue to interface with existing water user groups to provide updates and get feedback:

- Basin Roundtables.
- Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC).
- Water provider, conservation, conservancy district and other policy boards and stakeholder organizations.
- Water Resources Review Committee.
- Comments and other questions can also be provided to the CWCB at [demandmanagement@state.co.us](mailto:demandmanagement@state.co.us).

## Tasks: Conduct Workshops

- CWCB/AG Colorado River team to develop and conduct public workshops to continue outreach on Colorado River issues, specifically the issues associated with demand management feasibility.
  - Open lines of communication.
  - Provide forum for public review of Workgroup process.
  - Receive feedback and input regarding status of DM investigation process.
- Will not take the place of ongoing outreach efforts.
- After workgroup orientation we'll start getting these on the books.

# Timelines

- May 20 – Signing of DCP documents
- Late May – internal CWCB orientation
- June – “All-Hands” Workgroup orientation
- June 21 – Upper Colorado River Commission Demand Management Workshop, Salt Lake City
- June 27-28 – Upper Colorado River Commission biannual meeting, Keystone

**Not anticipating completion of feasibility investigations by end of 2019. Simply starting the process.**



# Questions, comments, guidance:

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Project Management Team

- [demandmanagement@state.co.us](mailto:demandmanagement@state.co.us)



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